



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2008

Council Members & Liaisons Present

Paul Herrmann (Chair), Joyce Finkelstein (Vice-Chair), Lynn Adler, Kati Bates, Bill Engler, Sharon McKinley, Doyle Meredith, Bernadette Polley, Barry Spiker, Rex Critchfield (DES), Jill Harrison (WACOG/AAA), Gregg Kiely (DOT), Ramona Rusinak (DHS), Pam Stevenson (AG's Office)

Council Members and Liaisons Not Present

George Evanoff, Bernadine Hoffman, Marilyn Johnson, Erin Klug, PJ Schoenstene

Council Staff Present

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Shawn Trobia, Dan Plumhoff, Elsa Gaynor

Guests Present

None

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes & Chair's Report

Council Chair Paul Herrmann called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the September 5, 2008 meeting were reviewed. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Bernadette Polley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Executive Director's Report

FY09 State Budget Impacts

Executive Director Melanie Starns provided a brief overview of the FY09 State and Council budgets, and she noted that the current budget environment has impacted local community partnerships, and that changes to the services provided at the local level are likely. Additionally, Ms. Starns expressed her gratitude for Governor Napolitano's efforts to protect essential services for vulnerable populations at the state level, but noted that the Governor is unable to protect many senior services that are being cut from the budgets of the cities and towns which deliver them. Ms. Starns emphasized the necessity of protecting the progress that has been made, and the importance of continuing to leverage existing resources. Thus, Ms. Starns noted that she will compile a list of cost-cutting measures that the Governor's Office on Aging has taken, and she thanked the Council for its continued cooperation as things move forward.

Mature Worker Employer Trainings

Ms. Starns and Ms. Shawn Trobia reported that they have conducted five Mature Worker Employer Trainings to date, and that they will be conducting five additional trainings by Thanksgiving. Additionally, Ms. Trobia noted that 42 organizations have registered for the

trainings, and that the interest and response of the registrants has been excellent. Furthermore, Ms. Starns stated that the use of the iLinc technology to conduct the “webinar” versions of the trainings has been extremely cost-effective, and that the trainings are being self-funded without the use of state dollars. Ms. Trobia expressed her gratitude to Pima and Maricopa Community Colleges for their assistance in coordinating and delivering the two “in-person” training sessions that were conducted on October 29th and November 4th, 2008.

Speaking Engagements

Ms. Starns provided the descriptions, locations and times of her speaking engagements and events for the month of November, 2008. A copy of Ms. Starns speaking engagements for the month of November, 2008 is available through the Council Office.

Committee Reports and Voting on Committee Motions

Executive Committee

Council Vice-Chair Joyce Finkelstein reported that the Executive Committee discussed the current budget shortfall facing the State and Council, and that they put forth several additional possibilities for conserving the Council funds. Vice-Chair Finkelstein also provided an overview of the potential Council meeting dates for 2009, which reflect the Council’s decision to cut the overall number of annual meetings by half, and decrease their frequency to every other month. Additionally, Ms. Finkelstein noted that the Executive Committee discussed the upcoming Planning Meeting to be held at the Arizona Department of Health Services State Laboratory on December 4-5, 2008. A copy of the 2009 Council meeting dates and locations will be available through the Council Office pending the Council’s approval.

Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee

Committee Chair Bill Engler noted the failure of Proposition 200 on the Arizona November ballot, and he thanked the Council members for their dedication and assistance in disseminating information about the proposition within their local communities. *Mr. Engler made a motion to the Council requesting that it draft letters of gratitude to Governor Napolitano and Attorney General Goddard to thank them for taking a public stand against Proposition 200, and for leading the efforts to ensure that the public was educated about the provisions within the initiative; Ms. Bernadette Polley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Additionally, Mr. Engler noted that the Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee discussed hosting Senior Action Days events in Phoenix on April 1st, Tucson on April 17th, and Flagstaff on April 24th, 2009, and that the Committee recommended that the April, 2009 Council meeting date be scheduled to coincide with the Phoenix Senior Action Days event, which will be hosted in the Executive Tower in order to cut back on travel and lodging costs. Mr. Engler also noted that the Committee will look into potential iLinc webinar capabilities for delivering low-cost Senior Action Days events to additional locations throughout the state.

Mature Workforce Committee

Due to the absence of the Mature Workforce Committee Chair, there was no formal report. Staff indicated, however, that the meeting went well and that there were no motions from this committee to be brought forward to the Council at this time.

Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith reported that the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting on November 6, 2008 began with a report out from Mr. David Besst, who spoke of the continued success of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition, as well as the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Aging and Adult Services' Lifespan Respite Care Program. Additionally, Mr. Meredith noted that the committee received an updated version of the AZ Links brochure, and that copies of the revised AZ Links brochure are available through Ms. Valerie Fifield at DES Division of Aging and Adult Administration and the Governor's Office on Aging. Mr. Meredith also stated that the two SHAC Sub-Committees on Oral Health and Hearing Loss broke into individual groups, and were very successful in their initial meetings.

Planning Meeting Draft Agenda Review

Ms. Starns provided an overview of the 2008 Council Planning Meeting Draft Agenda, noting that the structure of the agenda was based on the 2007 Planning Meeting's design. Additionally, Ms. Starns stated that there are several choices that the Council needs to make in regards to the agenda items, and that the agenda is open to their suggestions and revisions. A discussion ensued, and the Council specifically addressed the following potential agenda items:

- Asking the Area Agency on Aging, Region One, Inc. to present on December 5, 2008 at 11am;
- Employing iLinc capabilities to hold a 30-45 minute "mock webinar," so that Council members will be familiar with the different technologies and modalities available as possible cost-cutting alternatives for Senior Action Days events and future Council and Committee meetings; and
- Reserving the afternoon of December 4, 2008 in order to plan for the upcoming 2009 Senior Action Days events.

Ms. Ramona Rusinak indicated that she will look into the available technologies and conference call capabilities for the Department of Health Services State Laboratory, and Ms. Starns provided the Council members with directions to the Planning Meeting site. Additionally, Ms. Starns stated that the 2009 Planning Meeting Registration and Payment for Guest's Meals forms must be completed and returned to the Council Office by November 21, 2008, and that the Council members are responsible for securing their own lodging arrangements for the meeting. Copies of the directions to the meeting site, and the Planning Meeting Registration and Payment for Guest's Meals forms are available through the Council office.

Break

The Council recessed for a 15 minute break at 10:09 a.m.

Review of Annual Report Draft Outline

Ms. Starns provided an overview of the Council's 2008 Annual Report, and a discussion ensued. Specifically, the Council proffered the following additions:

- The Council's future directions for its Transportation initiative
- Expounding on the work of the Mature Workforce Committee

- The launching of the Falls Prevention Coalition with the Arizona Department of Health Services
- Recognizing Attorney General Goddard's efforts to protect seniors

Ms. Starns noted that the Council's Annual Report must be submitted by January 15, 2009.

Liaison Reports

Department of Health Services (DHS)

Ms. Ramona Rusinak of the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) reported that the DHS Division of Public Health Services Statewide Suicide Coalition provided recommendations to the Arizona Area Agencies on Aging for evidence based programs and suicide prevention measures among seniors, and that Administration on Aging (AoA) grant representatives and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) conducted site visits of evidence based programs on November 6, 2008 at locations in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai Counties in order to assist with developing sustainability for those programs. Additionally, Ms. Rusinak discussed licensing accomplishments and legislation that passed during the last legislative session which "de-links" plans of correction from annual facility surveys and license applications on the DHS website, as well as the addition of Statements of Deficiency for medical and behavioral health facilities. Ms. Rusinak noted that DHS is looking to have such quality ratings posted onto the www.azcarecheck.com website by December 2008.

Department of Economic Security (DES)

Mr. Rex Critchfield, Assistant Director of the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), reported that his agency continues to be affected by the state budget shortfall and hiring freeze, and he stated that all DES purchases and service contracts have been halted, pending review by the Arizona Department of Administration. Furthermore, Mr. Critchfield gave an overview of the cost-cutting measures currently employed by DAAS, to include the reduction of personnel services, supplies and in-state travel (mission critical only, such as for Adult Protective Services), as well as the elimination of non-federally funded out-of-state travel, and central office overtime. Finally, Mr. Critchfield noted that the Foster Grandparent Program is in danger of losing its federal funding through a potential \$200,000 cut to its grant.

Arizona Department of Transportation (AZDOT)

Mr. Gregg Kiely of the Arizona Department of Transportation reported that his agency is also facing a similar budget process for FY09, and that 40-50% of his agency's \$7 million in reductions will directly impact senior programs, especially at the local levels. Specifically, Mr. Kiely stated that senior programs run at the local level are under great stress, due to their inability to match the federal funding required for their delivery. Additionally, Mr. Kiely noted the challenge of maintaining the agency's field operating costs for its 240 vehicles with a budget allocation of \$740,000 and he added that his agency anticipates an additional impact will be felt due to the national deficit. Moreover, Mr. Kiely emphasized the importance of conveying the critical transit needs of seniors and people with disabilities to Congress.

Attorney General's Office (AG)

Ms. Pam Stevenson of the AG's Office reported that her office is currently working on re-writing several pieces of legislation pertaining to vulnerable adults and financial exploitation, and that

they are hoping to produce an approach to address these issues within the next few weeks. Additional legislative efforts include pursuing enhanced sentencing for elder abuse, prohibiting reverse mortgage lenders from selling annuities (as was done at the federal level), imposing and enforcing regulations on charitable organizations, and establishing an advisory council for military veterans. Furthermore, Ms. Stevenson stated that the AG's office is working to enhance community outreach efforts in 2009, and that thanks to a philanthropic grant, her office will produce several videos relating to senior scams and elder abuse issues.

WACOG/AAA

Ms. Jill Harrison of the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) reported that the AAA provider network is preparing for potential budgetary cuts of 10-20% overall, and that Region IV (western Arizona) has already experienced cuts to its senior nutrition programs. Consequently, Ms. Harrison noted that local government entities in Region IV have inquired as to how they might establish their own individual senior programs and centers in order to keep such services intact, and to address the challenges created by corresponding transportation demands. Additionally, Ms. Harrison stated that garnering community support for these programs is essential, and that numerous folks throughout Region IV's communities have generously provided their assistance. Also, Ms. Harrison added that the AAA Association will hold a strategic planning meeting in Sedona during the first week of December, 2008, and that they have gathered data from across the state aimed at delivering enhanced provider training and education, and promoting greater accountability and visibility from the AAA's.

Lunch

The Council recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m. for 39 minutes.

Guest Presentation

Mr. Rex Critchfield, Assistant Director of the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), delivered a presentation entitled "State Plan on Aging Input Progress & SFY08 Capacity Building Report." A question and answer period followed, and the Council thanked Ms. Critchfield for his presentation. Copies of Mr. Critchfield's presentational handouts are available through the Council Office.

Thank You and Acknowledgement

Council Chair Paul Herrmann acknowledged Mr. Critchfield, who will be retiring as the Assistant Director of the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) on December 5, 2008. The Council expressed their gratitude for Mr. Critchfield's dedicated service, commitment, and partnership to the Council, DES, and the State of Arizona.

Updates/New Business/Announcements

- Ms. Starns noted the work of Dr. Mindy Fain, Director of the Arizona Reynolds Program of Applied Geriatrics, and Section Head for the University of Arizona's Geriatrics College of Medicine as the Chair of the Governor's Health Care Workforce Plan Aging & Long Term Care Leadership Group, and acknowledged her valued assistance in writing that group's report for the Governor. *Barry Spiker made a motion extend an invitation to Dr. Fain to serve as a Liaison to the Council, representing the Center on Aging, and Lynn Adler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Call to the Public

No members of the public were present.

Action Items

- Ms. Starns will compile a list of cost-cutting measures that the Governor's Office on Aging has taken
- The Council will draft letters of gratitude to Governor Napolitano and Attorney General Goddard to thank them for taking a public stand against Proposition 200, and for leading the efforts to ensure that the public was educated about the provisions within the Initiative.
- The Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee will look into potential iLinc webinar capabilities for delivering low-cost Senior Action Days events to additional locations throughout the state.
- Ms. Ramona Rusinak will look into the available technologies and conference call capabilities for the Department of Health Services State Laboratory (annual planning meeting space).
- The Council members will complete and return their individual 2009 Planning Meeting Registration form and any payment for guest's meals to the Council Office by November 21, 2008
- The Council members are responsible for securing their own lodging arrangements for the 2009 Annual Planning Meeting.
- The Council will extend an invitation to Dr. Mindy Fain of to serve as a Liaison to the Council, representing the Center on Aging

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Council Chair Paul Herrmann at 1:22 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be Thursday and Friday, December 4-5, 2008 beginning at 10:00 am at the Arizona Department of Health Services State Laboratory.

The first regularly scheduled Council meeting of 2009 will be Friday, January 9, 2009 at 9:00am at the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.